



# Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**March 25, 2020**

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To protect the health and safety of Nevadans during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy has adopted an emergency regulation that restricts the prescribing and dispensing of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine.

The Board adopted this emergency regulation in consultation with the Governor's COVID-19 Medical Advisory Team, to prevent the hoarding and stockpiling of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine during the COVID-19 pandemic, which may result in a shortage of supplies of these drugs for legitimate medical purposes.

Currently, hydroxychloroquine is under investigation for use in the treatment of COVID-19. At this time, the safety and efficacy of the drug for the treatment of COVID-19 have not been established.

The emergency regulation prohibits the prescribing and dispensing of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for any new diagnosis made after the effective date of the regulation. The provisions of this emergency regulation do not apply to a chart order for an inpatient in a hospital or other institutional setting. Hospital patients are receiving and will continue to receive chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for treatment of COVID-19.

The provisions of this emergency regulation do not apply to an existing course of treatment for a diagnosis made before the effective date of the regulation. Prescriptions to continue a course of treatment for a diagnosis made before the effective date of the regulation must contain an ICD-10 code, and must not exceed a 30-day supply at any given time.

The emergency regulation was adopted by the Board in an emergency meeting held in compliance with Nevada law on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and approved by the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Emergency regulations become effective immediately upon their filing with the Secretary of State. They are effective for a period of not longer than 120 days.

This emergency regulation will ensure access for Nevada patients to chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for legitimate medical purposes during the COVID-19 pandemic.